

CLASS 129: Region 23 Migrant Education Program San Joaquin & Contra Costa Counties, California

Experience in Democracy Leadership Program

The Training Week

March 2004

In Search for Change, Migrant Youth Express Their Ideas to Capitol Hill Leaders

WASHINGTON, DC, March 19— Thirty students from the San Joaquin & Contra Costa Counties from California successfully completed their leadership training week with definite plans to make change in their local communities. The Bert Corona Leadership Institute's customized hands-on civic leadership program provided the students with the practical insight of their role in government.



Class 129 are learning how a bill becomes a law in one of their many workshops at BCLI



The students of Class 129 were quick to realize that possessing the skills and know-how of civic participation are half the battle.

Class 129's Lorena Torres received with grand enthusiasm her certificate of completion at the graduation ceremony by the BCLI Deputy Director, Ms. Wendy Carrasco.

Like the many before them, these students were challenged and tested so to enable them to accept the civic responsibilities that lie ahead. This sense of empowerment is what the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program is all about. It comes from teaching the values of democracy, building and refining leadership skills, and entrusting them with the duty of civic engagement.

Class 129 participants were able to learn the practical mechanics of public policy as they develop their own issues agenda and met with their congressional representatives and government agency officials.

Among the other notable meetings during their busy training week, Class 129 met

with the staff offices of Congressman Richard Pombo (D-CA), as well as, with the staff of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA). Each meeting was a success, as Class 129 took advantage of the opportunity to address their concerns before their congressional representatives (see "Issues Agendas", page 2).

The students of Class 129 showed much resolve in their newfound dedication to make a difference. They recognize civic responsibility as a call that all must answer.



Class 129' students were interviewed by TV Azteca in America regarding the importance of migrant youth civic participation in their communities giving a message to all Latino youth in the United States of the importance of helping their communities to grow.

Congratulations Class 129!

Jessica Fernandez
Isaías Orozco
Heber Barrera
Maribel Ramos
Rudy Gomez
Maritza Martinez
Diana Ortiz

Anabel Alvarado
Jose Baltazar
Sandra Campos
Isabel Carranza
Lizette Ganoa
Ana Gomez
Guadalupe Hernandez

Lesett Luna
Nancy Mora
Carlos Muñoz
Miguel Ochoa
Mayra Rodriguez
Petra Lita Sanchez
Kristine Bartido

Ricardo Camargo
Erica Cervantez
Sukhpreet Grewal
Martin Zamora Torres
Faviola Ramirez
Lorena Torres
Beatrice German*

* Migrant Agency Staff Partici-

Richard Braun*
Araceli Verduzco*

Issues Agendas: Class 129, Region 23 Migrant Education Program, California

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions (as shown) were developed by EIDL P Class 129. Their purpose to make a difference in their communities, and make their communities a better place.

We the students from San Joaquin and Contra Costa County unite in “**One Voice**” to emphasize our importance in our community. As leaders we present the following issues:



Class 129 work on their issues agendas and learn how to speak with one voice on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

Immigration

Labor Field Workers, Migrant.

To improve the economy, we propose to give working visas for laboring jobs, which will consist of a maximum of three terms (each consisting of five years) to people that meet the following criteria, we propose, to provide number of children, property own, income, criminal record, living status, and only one member of the immediate family should be granted a working visa. Plus there would be a background check every term.

Health Care

(Insurance) for Low Income.

Undocumented low-income workers should have health benefits, we propose a law in which the employers will be required to provide full coverage health care for their low-income employees and/or allocate funding and begin a program that would benefit low-income families to obtain medical coverage.

Education

(Schools/Visas) Immigrants, Low Tuition

To increase the circulation of education among other countries and eliminate the need for illegal immigration, we propose to give a school visa to finish K-12 in order to further their own education and provide for their family.

In order to increase the number of high educated people, in crease the economy, and a degree of education will be accepted anywhere, we suggest creating one flat tuition for all students with or without documents to all colleges or universities in the entire country.

Students at the U.S. Department of Agriculture



Class 129 were addresses by officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Civic Rights Office, by Mr. Harry Salinas Hispanic Program Employment Manager, Mr. Paul Gutierrez, Deputy Assistant Secretary; Ms. Carmen Martinez, Acting Director; Ms. Kathryn H. Hill, Public Liaison Manager; Ms. Vivian Velasco, Rural Policy Fellow; Mr. Jorge Sanchez, Agricultural Economist & Mr. Vladimir Diaz, Marketing Specialist.

The Bert Corona Leadership Institute has a long-established relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA has provided great learning opportunities for EIDL P students by lending them the insight on services they offer for migrant farmworker families. The Contra Costa and San Joaquin County students learned about the almost limitless career opportunities that the USDA has to offer.